

Message Text

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12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: USIS WEEKLY REPORT

PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION

1. CONSIDERABLE TALK AMONG PRESS AND OTHER INFORMED CIRCLES THAT UNITED STATES AND EGYPT WILL RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON FEBRUARY 21 AFTER ISRAELIS WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM WEST BANK OF SUEZ. REACTION TO PROSPECT OF REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IS GENERALL POSITIVE. EGYPTIAN PUBLIC FEEL US HAS ASSUMED A MORE BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY SINCE OCTOBER WAR AND HAS PRODUCED RESULTS IN TERMS OF CEASE-FIRE AND DISENGAGEMENT. PUBLIC SEES LITTLE REASON WHY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SHOULDN'T BE REESTABLISHED.

2. REACTION TO WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE HAS BEEN MUTED AND UNEASY. PUBLIC BELIEVES, DESPITE WASHINGTON DISCLAIMERS, THAT PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE IS TO FORM BLOC OF OIL-CONSUMING NATIONS TO CONFRONT OPEC OIL-PRODUCING BLOC. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REFERENCE IN HIS FEB 6 ADDRESS AT HARVARD CLUB TO CONTINUING ARAB OIL BOYCOTT IN FACE OF MAJOR US PEACE EFFORTS AS "PRESSURE TACTICS" THAT "CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUED AS BLACKMAIL" HAS BEEN DISQUIETING TO SOME AND USED AS EVIDENCE THAT US INTENDS TO USE ONGOING ENERGY CONFERENCE AS INSTRUMENT

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OF CONFRONTATION. TODAY'S PRESS CARRIED SHORT SUMMARIES OF

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OPENING REMARKS IN A TEMPORISING "NO CONFRONTATION YET" TONE.

3. PRESS CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPING TRADE AND AID TIES WITH US. US HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS ONE OF NATIONS WILLING TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION OF SUEZ CANAL ZONE. VISIT OF DAVID ROCKEFELLER MADE FRONT PAGE NEWS AND ROBERT MACNAMARA'S IMPENDING VISIT ALREADY BEING COVERED. PAPERS ALSO COVERED SAYED MAREI'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND CHAIRMAN EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL BANK'S TALKS WITH UNDERSECRETARY RUSH AND US FINANCIERS.

4. ALL DAILIES AND RADIO CARRIED STORY OF AMBASSADOR EILTS DELIVERING TEXT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER FAHMY. ALL PAPERS CARRIED VERBATIM OF ME PORTION OF STATE OF UNION ADDRESS.

5. ALL DAILIES PICKED UP PART OF USIS CAIRO PRESS RELEASE ON CONGRESSMAN PETER FRELINGHUYSEN'S CAIRO VISIT.

6. MOST EGYPTIANS UNMOVED BY RECENT GOE "FREEDOM OF PRESS" DECLARATIONS. RETURN OF ALI AMIN TO EGYPTIAN JOURNALISM AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AL-AHRAM HAS BEEN DISTURBING TO CERTAIN EGYPTIAN INTELLECTUALS. VIEWERS WHO SAW AMIN BROTHERS ON TV LAST WEEK WERE SHOCKED AT HOW AGED AND WORN-OUT THEY HAD BECOME. ONE INTELLECTUAL ASKED "WHY HAS PRESIDENT SADAT BROUGHT GHOSTS BACK TO LIFE?" THE ANSWER MIGHT BE FOUND IN ALI AMIN'S FIRST AL-AHRAM COLUMNS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY SLAVISH PAEANS TO SADAT'S POLICIES OR VEILED CRITICISM OF GAMAL ABDEL NASSER.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

7. SKYLAB LANDING REPORTED ON FRONT PAGES OF THREE MAJOR DAILIES.

8. TV SCIENCE PROGRAM CONTINUED TO USE SCIENCE REPORTS REGULARLY. "MAN'S REACH SHOULD EXCEED HIS GRASP" AND "NEW VIEWS OF SPACE" WERE USED ON EDUCATIONAL TV PROGRAM IN REVIEW OF AVIATION HISTORY.

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